(a) whether some Indian companies have made investments and set up their units in Kenya and Tanzania; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which Indian companies have made investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government approval has been granted to Indian companies to invest in overseas joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in Kenya and Tanzania for manufacturing of paper, auto parts, cables, chemicals, pharmaceutical formulations, cotton ginning etc. and in the field of trading insurance, promotion of tourism etc.

Performance of Banks in Ladakh

5734. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of nationalised banks functioning in the Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir location-wise;

(b) the total amount stands deposited by local residents in each of the banks separately, as on March 31, 1996;

(c) the total amount advanced to the local residents during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, Bank-wise;

(d) whether the advances made by the banks commensurate with the standard ratio fixed for making advances; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) State Bank of India, lead bank of the District Ladakh have reported that there are 13 branches of commercial banks operating in Leh. State Bank of India has four branches and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. nine branches.

(b) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand of Tender Coconut Water in International Market

5735. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for tender coconut water in the international market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The Tender Coconut Water in small quantity is traded in the International market.

(b) The Coconut Development Board has initiated a project for preservation and packing of tender coconut water through the Defence production Research Laboratory, Mysore and the possibility of exporting it will be explored after perfecting the technology. Some steps taken by Government to enhance the export of tender coconut water include :

(i) Stepped up outlay in the Eighth Plan for both Central Sector and Centrally sponsored project for integrated development of coconut industry;

(ii) Enhancing coconut production and productivity by making available quality planting material, encouraging expansion of cropped area, undertaking rejuvenation, disease management and extension activities.

Occupational Health Assistance

5736. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6121 on May 18, 1995 and to state :

(a) whether the information have since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, 94 persons were appointed as Occupational Health Assistants (Trainees) in South Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited in 1993-94. No such appointments were made either in the previous year or the subsequent year. These appointments were for meeting an *ad-hoc* need and, as such, no qualifications stood prescribed nor was any formal procedure adopted therefor. As stipendiary trainees, these appointments were not covered by the National Coal Wage Agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Spices

5737. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different kind of spices exported at present;

(b) the annual export target set for each of the spices for Eighth Plan and actual achievements made thereunder so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The major items/groups of spices exported include (i) Pepper; (ii) Cardamom (Small); (iii) Cardamom (Large); (iv) Chillies;